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on the mammals by J. L. Bonhote. In the considerable list of species reported there are a new species of small carnivore, a new bat, a new squirrel, and three new species of rats. C. Swinhoe reports on something over 250 species of moths, of which seventeen are new. Two land planarians, one of which is new, are described by F. F. Laidlaw, who also reports on the dragonflies. Three new diptera pupipara are recorded by Speiser. G. A. Boulenger reports 85 species of batrachians and reptiles, six of which are new. The tiger beetles are described by H. C. Robinson.

The second part contains nine short papers: four on insects, two on fishes, and one each on mollusks, the mouth funnel of a tadpole, and a fossil elephant tooth. In a report on the non-operculate pulmonates W. E. Collinge gives a full account of the anatomy of a new and very large species of *Atropos*; and in J. Johnstone's paper on the marine fishes, an interesting description of a new species of *Periophthalmus* is given. Its life on the mud flats out of water and its burrows are fully described and illustrated. The fact that when in the air it does not respond to the report of a gun led to the conclusion that it was absolutely deaf. Its eyesight both in water and in air was acute.

The two fascicles were accompanied by a supplement containing a map and an itinerary.

Davison's Anatomy of the Cat.—As an introduction to the study of zoölogy and particularly to mammalian anatomy, Davison¹ has prepared an account of the anatomy of the cat. The volume, which contains some 250 pages with above 100 illustrations, is unsatisfactorily brief and in consequence it is deficient as a description of the anatomy of a type and as an introduction to comparative study. Although brevity may have been the aim of the author and certain defects may therefore have been unavoidable, others are present in the volume for which no such excuse can be found. Thus the description of the gastrocolic omentum as a *closed* sac is wholly misleading, and the grouping together of the corpora quadrigemina, optic thalami, and corpora striata as basal ganglia counteracts what has been gained for these bodies from the standpoint of comparative anatomy. The facial nerve is placed without qualification among the pure motor nerves, and the circumvallate papillae of the tongue are noted as eight to twelve in number, as in man, though the figure

¹Davison, A. *Mammalian Anatomy* with special Reference to the Cat. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 8°; xii + 250 pp., 108 figs.

shows six, the usual number for the cat. Defects of this kind are too frequent to make the book really useful in the hands of most beginners.

Notes. — The action of light on organisms and the production of light by organisms are presented in readable form by R. Dubois in the second volume of the *Traité de Physique Biologique*. The effect of light on the action of enzymes, on the production and destruction of pigments, and on the circulation and respiration of the higher animal is described at some length. The influence of light on the movements of animals is very inadequately treated probably because most of the researches on this subject have come from other than French laboratories. Dermatophic vision and its relation to vision by means of eyes is fully discussed from the standpoint of Pholas. The production of light by organisms forms a brief, compact essay dealing with the photogenic bacteria, the light-producing protozoa, insects and mollusks. It contains interesting statements of the relative energy values of living and mechanical sources of light and is illustrated by some remarkable photographs taken by light from living organisms. It is marred by an attempt to discriminate between chemical, light, and heat rays.

A brief account of the structure of the rudimentary eyes in the Cuban blind snake, *Typhlops lumbricalis*, has been published by E. F. Muhse in the *Biological Bulletin*, Vol. V, No. 5, 1903. The eye appears as a dark spot surrounded by an unpigmented circle and covered by a large ocular scale. Internally the usual parts can be distinguished including a well-developed lens and a retina in which the layers typical for snakes can be seen.

R. Dubois last year reported to the French Academy of Sciences and to the Society of Biology the success of his experiment to acclimatize true pearl oysters on the French coast and to produce precious pearls by artificial means. His methods resulted in producing small but high grade pearls in one in ten oysters whereas under natural conditions it was necessary to open 1200 to 1500 oysters to obtain one pearl.

C. H. Eigenmann and C. Kennedy in No. 5, Vol. 4 of the *Biological Bulletin* call attention to an unusual melanic individual of the cave salamander, *Spelerpes maculicaudus*, to a catfish from Lake Titicaca with a branched left barbule, and to a specimen of *Xiphorhamphus* with an additional left ventral fin.